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ABSTRACT

Each segment of the information community included in the scope of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) has some ongoing international project or is directly affected by international agreements or projects. NCLIS must provide the oversight, guidance, and coordination that will ensure the joining together of their efforts for the national benefit, while at the same time refraining from taking away from any organization or group the activities, programs, and responsibilities that belong to that group. The role of NCLIS should be in planning, liaison, evaluation coordination, intelligence, informal contacts, funding, and national policy development. NCLIS can be a leader in the realization of free flowing information and the dynamic sharing of intellectual resources. (Author/PF)

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INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS
AS THEY RELATE TO THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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FORMER PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES AND
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Describes the relationship and involvement of the U.S. national program as described in the second draft of the NCLIS Program Document with the international library and information service developments. Projects the problems in effecting a compatibility between U.S. national library planning and developments and the international scene. Attention is given to changes needed in present programs, new programs required, types of standards desirable, new qualifications for personnel and anticipated problems in developing this relationship.

DECEMBER, 1974

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the NCLIS. Though related to the Commission's National Program, papers in this series are not an integral part of the National Program Document.

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PREFACE

This paper is a personal study of the international library and information field. It has no relationship to any organization of which I have been or am a member, nor has it been discussed, read or reviewed by any of these organizations. I am completely responsible for the information presented, including criticisms and recommendations.

I. BACKGROUND

A national commitment to provide all citizens with ready access to whatever information they need immediately calls for a consideration of international information sources, systems, and cooperation. Knowledge is international, and the United States has a notable history of acquiring information from every corner of the world and also of sharing its own information with all countries. From colonial times to the present, information from abroad has been eagerly sought by those at the forefront of political, scientific, and educational life in this country. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln stimulated the United States' interest in acquiring publications and reports from other countries.

Although international acquisition and exchange of information were begun through the efforts of individuals, they gradually became the responsibility of societies, government agencies, and libraries. In large part now, providing information is a library function, and major information activities are carried on by government libraries, notably the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine.

Although oil is a more spectacular evidence of United States' dependence upon world resources, our knowledge resources are similarly dependent upon intellectual products

of the world. Even some of our own proudly claimed Nobel Prize winners have been emigres from other countries. Attaining international cooperation has been a continuing problem in the political field, but is an accepted reality in the field of knowledge. Knowledge thrives on freedom and breadth of access. Attempts of governments to restrict or confine information are of limited usefulness and often result in highlighting the concerned literature or information. Even closely guarded proprietary or security information in time becomes available to scholars and scientists.

The NCLIS plan necessarily will give major emphasis to the needs of the United States, and it will outline a system for meeting these needs. There is a danger, however, that an over-emphasis on national needs may result in overlooking some unanticipated side effects of a nationally oriented system. The side effects that touch local and national activities will be recognized first, but those with international implications are not as readily identified.

Unfortunately, United States emissaries often neglect to mention our intellectual resources and our libraries and information services in their foreign negotiations. We know, however, that our library-information experts, resources, and services have an uninterrupted impact on the cultural, educational, scientific and technical activities of nearly all countries.

This fact should be considered in working out each phase of our national plan.

We must recognize that the library-information field is perhaps the most broadly based and internationally dependent of all our professions and activities. Beyond this recognition, however, must be the further realization that a national commitment to library-information services includes international responsibilities in the technical as well as the theoretical aspects of planning.

Cultural experts have pointed out that ours is the "Age of Information," an age in which information is both basic and overwhelming. The quantity of information, the extent of its sources, the media for its transmission, and the complexity of fields of knowledge place libraries and information systems under unprecedented pressures.

Early in this century, individual libraries could readily order, catalog, and meet readers' needs. However, by the end of World War I, the combination of increased publication and broader user requirements led to the development of state and regional cooperative library efforts. By the mid-1940's it was evident that only a combination of local, state, regional, and national cooperation could aid in solving the growing information problem. Now in the 1970's there is a worldwide consensus that only through international cooperative efforts

can there be free, rapid, and general access to information.

The Unesco sponsored Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures (Paris, 23-27 September 1974) gave enthusiastic support to a new program for Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC). This will be covered in more detail later in this paper, but it must be noted that there is now a general recognition of the need to have a universal system which provides for the development of a bibliographic record for each new publication as it is issued and in the country of origin. Dr. Herman Liebaers initiated this project as an activity of the International Federation of Library Associations. Initially supported by the Council on Library Resources, UBC was provided with a planning and operations office in the British National Library. This, along with other international projects to be mentioned later, requires NCLIS to consider the international aspects of every segment of the national plan.

One further point must be made as part of this background statement. The United States as a leader in the development of library and information systems is under the close scrutiny of specialists in all countries. Our services and procedures are often regarded as models for other nations. In the past we have developed procedures and systems based solely on our own special requirements and needs. The worldwide demand and need

for international library and information systems have made it clear that we can no longer carry out our plans in isolation. The MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) program developed at the Library of Congress is an example of this need to look beyond our own immediate requirements. MARC was started in 1966 as an extension of the national catalog card service of the Library of Congress. It established the standards and procedures for recording and retrieving cataloging/bibliographic information on machine-readable magnetic tapes. The problems in developing this program were highly technical and complex, and the Library of Congress is to be congratulated for its successful accomplishment. Even as the system was being developed other countries began studying the MARC program and trying to adapt it to their own systems and needs. Extensive efforts are being made in various parts of the world to use the MARC program. The United States as well as other countries might have been better served if the MARC developers from the beginning had considered its international implications and usage. The MARC development is not to be criticized, but any commission or group that today tries to plan and develop a major system for libraries and for information dissemination would be derelict if it did not consider international implications and cooperation.

Major plans, such as the present national program, often

tend to become general, idealistic, and imprecise. These same qualities also characterize international ventures. As a reaction to this, this international section will focus on responsibilities, projects, and services that are necessary, realistic, and practical.

The first step in relating national planning to international activities will be to examine several ongoing international projects and national projects with international implications. Since most international organizations have proposed or are carrying out worldwide cooperative information projects, emphasis will be given to those that are most directly related to the NCLIS planning project.

This paper will provide a general introduction to and a broad overview of the international library-information activities which must be considered in national planning. All are recurring activities which must be assigned to some agency for continuing review and evaluation. Each activity mentioned is complex and is carried out by specialized experts. Most of these professionals are concentrating on the specific needs of a single agency. They have neither the directive nor the time to correlate their work with the interrelationships of broad national and international needs. This is the responsibility of NCLIS. The topics included here are those which require primary Commission attention. Some, such as MARC, will be

covered in other chapters of the national program. The attempt here is to provide an informative introduction to fields with international significance.

Acquiring and building up national information resources will be covered first. Then will follow a layman's introduction to new national and international developments in cooperative provision of bibliographic access to information resources. Next will be a review of formal international agreements and standards that are basic to international cooperation. These constitute the descriptive sections of the paper. The concluding sections provide estimates of advantages and problems, followed by specific recommendations.

A glossary of acronyms and a guide to selected international organizations are included as addenda.

II. BUILDING UP NATIONAL RESOURCES OF RECORDED INFORMATION

Libraries and documentation centers are more than ever interdependent in their development of resource materials. NCLIS must give attention to the general problems of acquiring materials, particularly to joint or shared programs. The area of exchange of information is treated separately since it is often neglected and little understood by those not engaged in day-to-day library work.

Acquisitions

The glamor of computerized handling of bibliographic data and the current emphasis upon consortia and networks have to some degree distorted the priorities which should be assigned to library and information services. There is a tendency to forget that bibliographic data are only a part of the mechanism that satisfies the needs of the users of these services. The acquisition and building up of holdings of publications and other knowledge resources must receive attention and support.

Since knowledge is universal and information is emanating from every part of the world, the United States must be assured that there is a systematic, constant, and rapid flow of publications from abroad. Millions of items arrive here each year. Many are acquired through broad international or special bilateral exchange agreements. Many others are purchased through blanket or individual orders. Government agencies, businesses,

corporations, professional societies, academic institutions, libraries, information centers, abstracting services, as well as individuals engage in this process of bringing in information from other countries.

The Annual Report of the Library of Congress for 1967 emphasized the fact that:

The world output of recorded information is increasing at an alarming rate; the broadening interests of scientists and other scholars, and even of the man in the street, embrace a bewildering variety of subjects and languages. To bring the two together, the need for complete, current cataloging, subject analysis, and indexing is becoming more and more urgent. Every library in the United States must play a part in this dynamic drama of supply and demand, and, of necessity, the Library of Congress is cast increasingly in the leading role.

Imaginative approaches to problems created by the information explosion have led to some practical solutions that seemed unbelievable less than three years ago; a global acquisitions program; a centralized cataloging service of unparalleled scope that utilizes bibliographical information from all over the world; and a program of basic research in problems related to bibliographical control. 1

Even with all of this flow of paper, film, and tape to the United States, we still fail to obtain perhaps as much as 20 percent of needed items from abroad. "A National Program for Library and Information Service," 2d Draft, briefly mentions the Library of Congress National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), which is also called the "Shared Cataloging and Regional Acquisitions Program." It was started in 1966

through the stimulation of the Association of Research Libraries.

Federal funds are appropriated:

... for the purpose of (1) acquiring, as far as possible, all library materials currently published throughout the world which are of value to scholarship; and (2) providing catalog information for these materials promptly after receipt, and distributing bibliographic information by printing catalog cards and by other means, and enabling the Library of Congress to use for exchange and other purposes such of these materials as are not needed for its own collections. 2

Until 1973 appropriations for this program were made to the Office of Education and the funds were then transferred to the Library of Congress. Direct appropriations for NPAC are now made to the Library of Congress.

The other broad national acquisitions program conducted by the Library of Congress is known as the P.L.480 Program. The United States government holds large sums of local currencies in many parts of the world. Since 1965 some of these funds have been allocated to the Library of Congress to establish offices abroad. These offices purchase quantities of needed publications for deposit in designated research libraries in the United States.

A study of the use of publications acquired under this program was carried out in 1968 by Dr. Mortimer Graves. It would be timely for NCLIS to conduct a new study.

Shared Cataloging

A significant part of the NPAC activity is the arrangement for descriptive cataloging to be provided to the co-operating countries by the compilers of the local national bibliography. The Library of Congress "shares" the cataloging data of more than twenty foreign countries.

Although the Library of Congress' acquisitions and shared cataloging projects provide immediate benefit to academic and research libraries, they also assist every library throughout the country. It is requisite, therefore, that NCLIS review and evaluate these activities from the broadest view of service to all users throughout the country. The focus now is on academic and research libraries. A review might concentrate on special needs of other types of libraries that could be met through these federally supported projects.

Exchanges

Many significant research and scholarly publications are not available through commercial channels. Often these materials are issued by societies, organizations or government agencies that make them available only to members or through exchange. As a result of its own special logic, the United States Department of State at various times has prohibited United States government agencies from exchanging publications with certain countries. For example, the Library of Congress and other

federal libraries were not allowed to exchange publications with the People's Republic of China for over twenty years. The renewal of exchanges between the Library of Congress and the National Library of Peking occurred in 1973. The curtailment of exchanges has resulted in serious gaps in collections of Chinese publications in this country.

Foreign exchanges are essential to the maintenance of our academic and research libraries. Although such a procedure may sound simple and straightforward, foreign exchanges in practice are complex and demanding. A paragraph in the Report of the Librarian of Congress for 1970 reviews some of the problems:

Arrangements for the international exchange of sets of official documents are maintained by the Library with 107 institutions in more than 70 countries throughout the world. They were established either through executive agreements formally concluded by the Department of State or through informal negotiations on the part of the Library of Congress. Not all of these arrangements have functioned satisfactorily, and the Exchange and Gift Division has, during the past two years, worked toward improving the unproductive ones. This effort has been prompted both by considerations of good management and economy of operation and by the direct request of the General Accounting Office, which holds that in these exchanges the Library should receive publications in equal number or of equal value from each recipient of a full or a partial set of U. S. Government publications. It is fair to say that exchanges of documents work best with governments of countries which, like the United States, have a centralized government printer and a distributing agency empowered to collect and dispatch sets of official publications on exchange. Arrangements with countries not in this category tend

to be ineffective and to require constant attention. On the other hand, the Library's own position needs strengthening, since a significant and growing number of agencies are issuing publications that are not produced through the Government Printing Office and, as a result, are not available to the Library for exchange. 3

NCLIS might wish to review the General Accounting Office position of "equal number" and "equal value" on at least two counts. If a developing country issues a few publications but wishes to acquire comprehensive sets of United States publications on exchange, it might be wise to consider the usefulness to United States government officials and others of having available all of the official publications of that government. There is also a political and educational value to having our documents available to political experts, scholars, and students in other countries. There was formerly an enlightened period when provision of our documents to developing countries was valued as a type of United States aid. Perhaps these ideas are outmoded, but the Commission should at least make certain that they are considered.

The Library of Congress and a few large research libraries have found that some publications are "available only by exchange and on-the-spot negotiation." No one library is able to meet such requirements on a worldwide basis. New, imaginative cooperative programs must be stimulated.

NCLIS' role in planning for international data exchange is in many ways similar to its role in planning for national exchange. It is the only group in the United States that can assume total responsibility. Other federal or professional bodies have concentrated attention on some piece of the problem that related to their special interest. Unfortunately, in both the national and international areas we have lacked the authorized leadership for overall planning. NCLIS has the authority and competence to initiate immediately activities that will move the United States into total planning for comprehensive international exchange of information.

The need to begin is urgent since many elements of a total international information system are already being developed. Most of these have had significant guidance by United States experts, but each effort moves ahead with only accidental or perfunctory cognizance of related programs.

Recommendations concerning acquisition made in 1967 by the "Committee on Research Libraries of the American Council of Learned Societies" should guide the work of NCLIS:

Acquisition

2. We recommend that the National Commission on Libraries be given responsibility for policy and planning relating to the acquisition of research materials for the nation's libraries.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the National Commission on Libraries and Archives must devote

particular attention to the urgent problems relating to the acquisition of research materials wherever published, as well as to their cataloging, indexing, abstracting, preservation, and accessibility.

In each of these areas the National Commission should make recommendations for action to the appropriate operating agencies after it has surveyed the nation's needs, established priorities, formulated plans, and determined the most effective allocation of resources and responsibilities. The Commission should also maintain general supervision over the operating agencies, and should have a continuing role in informing the public and particularly the Congress on library needs and how they can be met in the interest of research....

In the area of acquisition, the Commission will undoubtedly recognize the primacy of the Library of Congress... Treaties and informal arrangements bring it a steady flow of official publications from abroad, and it is engaged in worldwide acquisition through two remarkable programs of great importance to research. One is known as the Public Law 480 Program. The other comes from Title II-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 which authorizes appropriations to the Office of Education for transfer to the Library of Congress for the purpose of "acquiring, so far as possible, all library materials currently published throughout the world which are of value to scholarship."

...The role of the Commission would be to weigh results, point to gaps in our foreign acquisition, propose administrative and legislative measures to expand and strengthen procurement programs, and exert every effort to stimulate the Federal support that the Library of Congress and other agencies will require if they are to fulfill their respective missions. The goal is that of the Farmington Plan: that at least one copy of every significant foreign publication be acquired and made available to use anywhere in the United States. The premise underlying this goal is even more evident now than it was in 1942 when a group of librarians stated it at a meeting in Farmington, Connecticut: There is no longer any part of the globe about which the United States can afford to remain in the dark. 4 (Underline added)

III. WORLDWIDE COOPERATION AND UNIVERSAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

During the past seventy-five years many imaginative and detailed plans have been proposed for the international exchange of bibliographic information. Most have envisioned a single center gathering and disseminating information. Even when the annual output of publications was relatively limited, such a single repository for all information was found to be impracticable. Thus in the past two decades, when the quantity of publications increased at an unmanageable rate and the fields of knowledge proliferated beyond all expectation, library-information experts almost despaired of designing a practical and attainable system for coordinating the world's output of information. It is notable, therefore, that a grand design for worldwide sharing of information is now emerging, and related cooperative projects are being planned and started.

Underpinning such cooperation is the recently developed plan for "Universal Bibliographic Control" whose objective is to set in operation a worldwide system to make "universally and promptly available ... basic bibliographic data on all publications issued in all countries."⁵ It will encompass activities in the publishing, library, and information communities. A national center in each country will coordinate

the bibliographic output and be tied into an integrated international system. Components in each country are: 1) a system for immediate production of the bibliographic record, and 2) a national bibliographic agency. This agency will publish and distribute the records throughout the country and will also serve as an exchange point for similar records from other countries.

Basic to the success of such a system is the acceptance of internationally accepted standards for bibliographic description. Standards are so important in all international information efforts that they will be discussed later as a special area to be considered by United States planners.

"Universal Bibliographic Control" will provide the base for an eventual system covering a broad range of international cooperation in library and information work. In simplest terms it will be an internationally developed and accepted fingerprint system for identifying recorded information (books, journals, tapes, music, etc.). The item will be fingerprinted (identified) at the place of origin. The fingerprint (bibliographic information) will be made readily available to all interested users through a worldwide network.

The concept is simple, the implications are revolutionary, the acceptance is enthusiastic, but the execution has the complexities and problems of any system that requires both technical and social changes.

The simplicity of the idea is shown by the fact that the initial identification of the item and its bibliographic description can be carried out in a small, remote institution in the same manner as in the largest national library. In addition, the concept can apply to either a conventional manual approach or a sophisticated computer program. Doubtless, the system will be computerized since this is the most practical way to handle such quantities of sophisticated information.

There is a peculiar timeliness in the UBC proposal since it appears at a moment when professional attitudes and technology are ready to provide radical changes in bibliographic-cataloging procedures. During the past fifty years bibliographers and librarians have realized that intrenched, outdated, and costly practices would have to be adapted to the modern world. For hundreds of years there was a tradition that each library must maintain its own individuality by taking complete responsibility for all of its processes. A breakthrough in standardization and efficiency came with the development of Library of Congress catalog cards which made it possible to eliminate the costly expense incurred when each library individually cataloged each title it acquired. Libraries and information centers are now working on various centralized cooperative services that will relieve them of technical labors and provide more time for service to users.

During the 1970's formal library information consortia, centers, and networks systems have been started in every section of the country. These result from an awareness that individual libraries can no longer cope with the complex problems of providing their users with the growing needs for information. The essentiality of information is stressed in a recent Unesco document:

... information has become the essential basis for the progress of human civilization and society.

Better information services help to achieve a society in which citizens, individually and collectively, can cope with the problems of everyday life, can improve human relationships in their own communities and between peoples of differing cultures and traditions, and thus contribute to better understanding and world co-operation. 6

Universal Bibliographic Control is unique among present international information efforts in its inclusion of all fields of knowledge. Other coordination projects concentrate on segments of knowledge such as science (UNISIST), agriculture (AGRIS), or nuclear science (INIS).

Attention and consideration must be given to UNISIST since representatives of the United States officially approved of its establishment as a Unesco function. The term UNISIST was coined in 1966 to identify the work of a committee appointed to study the feasibility of a world science information system. The committee was a joint creation of Unesco and the Inter-

national Council of Scientific Unions (ISCU). Its original interest has been in the fields of science, applied science, engineering, and technology. However, there are efforts now to include the social science groups. A member of the UNISIST staff points out that UNISIST is:

... a continuing, flexible program, jointly sponsored and promoted by both governmental and nongovernmental international organizations to co-ordinate existing trends towards national co-operation, and to act as a catalyst for the necessary developments in the field of scientific information. The ultimate goal is the establishment of a flexible network of information services based on voluntary co-operation.

UNISIST is not a predesigned, rigid system, where every country and every field of science has its predestined role, with all the roles carefully planned in established relationships with one another. Nor is it a monolithic superstructure which would provide the world with all available information in science and technology.

Rather it is an unprecedented effort to synthesize, at the international level, diverse philosophies, programs, and policies relating to the international exchange of information....

The Unesco/ISCU project proposes, in short, to establish an international program as a focus for co-operative efforts to improve the international transfer of scientific information. While the long-range goal is to develop international networks of information services in the sciences, there are a number of more immediate objectives toward which specific programs can be oriented. ?

Many librarians, scientists and information experts find it difficult to identify with precision the character, scope, and nature of this Unesco creation. Those most intimately concerned with the development of UNISIST speak of its role as an agency "to guide, interpret, and stimulate actions leading

to increased voluntary co-operation among information services."⁸
It was further referred to as a philosophy, a movement, a conceptualization and a program. Its primary objective is to assist in developing the guidelines and rules that will promote cooperative projects in the science information field.

After four years study, the UNISIST concept was approved at a Unesco intergovernmental conference in 1971. Subsequently, a UNISIST unit was formally established at Unesco. It has been well funded by Unesco and has moved aggressively into many areas. Its influence is difficult to assess, but has aroused controversy by what some consider its efforts to become an operating rather than a planning and coordinating unit.

Countries cooperating in the UNISIST concept have set up national offices or committees. The United States has established a U. S. National Committee for UNISIST, whose chairman is the head of the Office of Science Information in the National Science Foundation. NCLIS should look closely at UNISIST and determine its potential relationship to United States national planning.

In addition to Universal Bibliographic Control, which will establish a uniform system for identifying and recording information items, other international centers or systems are being set up to enable users to find out about publications in their fields of interest and obtain copies of them.

Such subject systems are generally developed to meet the needs of those working in a special field. UBC will provide for the identification of an item by author or title. The subject systems enable the user to make detailed searches and find out where copies of the needed material are available. These are generally sponsored by international organizations. The first of these worldwide systems was INIS - the International Nuclear Information System, which is a program of the International Atomic Energy Agency, with its main office in Vienna, Austria. Information is collected and processed by cooperating countries and fed into a centralized computer-based system. The system accepts thousands of items of information per month in various languages and provides information on magnetic tape or in printed form.

Using INIS as a model, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is organizing a World Information System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS). Essentially INIS and AGRIS are systems for handling bibliographic data. They do not collect, store, or supply the documents; they refer the users to the sources.

It should be noted that the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) has in fact become an international system. It contracts for input by various countries and also cooperates in centers throughout the world where MEDLARS tapes can be searched and exploited.

The preceding summary of international information systems indicates in some measure the complexity of such activities and their reliance upon national cooperation. An essential element in the cooperative process is the joint development, acceptance, and use of international standards. These will be discussed in the following section of this report.

The Commission should note that representatives from the United States have been in the forefront in the development of these international programs, and the United States is an active participant in all of their work.

In his paper presented in November, 1974, to the International Federation of Library Associations' meeting, Dr. Frederick Burkhardt stated:

We have tried to keep two fundamental points in mind throughout. First, that the national plan or program must strive to be compatible with other national programs and with developing international and global programs. In practice this means that national planning must go on in the context of, and be constantly accompanied by, participation in international planning in order to achieve maximum interaction and communication. The second point is the reason this is so necessary, namely, that access to the knowledge and information resources of the entire world is essential to the development of every nation. This means that we must give active support and encouragement to all efforts to provide international linkages and access. 9

NCLIS must note that many organizations, groups, and individuals are already involved in international information systems. Since these involvements have occurred without the participation of NCLIS, it might be argued that NCLIS should concentrate on

other areas of cooperation. However, a close look at these activities shows an urgent need for coordination from a national viewpoint. As of today, international cooperative bibliographic systems are being developed by abstracting, indexing, library, and information organizations. Some are general, such as those sponsored by Unesco or IFLA. Others are centered on subject fields such as agriculture, biology, and atomic energy. Agreements are being made on bilateral or multilateral bases. Common to all of them is a feeling of urgency - a sense that the time has arrived for formal interchange arrangements.

There is no single office or group in this country that is trying to monitor all of these activities, studying them to determine where best the United States can establish priorities, what support must be given, where there might be unnecessary overlap, and perhaps most important, how they can all be some way correlated. Serious criticism has been directed toward some of the systems. NCLIS is the proper body to study these projects from the standpoint of total United States' interests. Coordination of work must be stressed, priorities must be established, critical analysis must be applied, and necessary support must be supplied.

The NCLIS work in this field will be closely related to its work in national bibliographic systems. In setting up its

program and establishing priorities for its participation in Universal Bibliographic Control. NCLIS should examine the report of the April, 1974, meeting on National Bibliographic Control, jointly sponsored by the Council on Library Resources and the National Science Foundation. Representatives from all segments of the library-information community met in an effort "to provide a solid, progressive framework of approved objectives to constitute a series of working programs" which would lead to an overall system of national bibliographic control.

The basic elements for either a national or international system are similar:

- (1) the unique identification of items of recorded information in various media; (2) the mechanics necessary to provide intellectual access to each such item of information; and (3) standardization, which is necessary to make meaningful communication possible among those who provide information, those who process and store it, and finally those who use it. 10

Ideally the identification, mechanization, and standardization should be planned and carried out on a common basis for all systems, but this is not now possible. Some international systems - INIS, AGRIS - are already functioning; others - UBC and UNISIST - are working on programs.

From a practical standpoint efforts now must be directed toward ultimate compatibility. Here again the National Bibliographic Control meeting suggests the basis for priority attention and action by the United States in working toward an international system:

... complete uniformity in the systems devised to process information in the United States is out of the question. A reasonable approach to compatibility among such diverse systems is to concentrate on the mechanisms, formats, and standards for information exchange among them, leaving each system free to design its own internal formats, procedures, products, and services, and requiring only that each system provide in-and-out compatibility with the agreed-upon standard medium of exchange. Meanwhile, we should strive to eliminate needless duplication of effort and promote multiple use of common elements of information.

Systems compatibility for the exchange of information may be considered on four levels: (1) record format compatibility, (2) record content designation, (3) record content consistency and completeness, and (4) character sets. 11

In its "conclusions" the group recommended that working parties be set up to:

1. Define the minimum bibliographic record which will uniquely identify items of each type and form of information, following international and national standards where applicable.
2. Determine requirements for additional standards for bibliographic description and make recommendations to the appropriate agencies. In arriving at each recommended new standard, a comprehensive review of the various parallel efforts in different communities at national and international levels dealing with the same or closely related areas should be conducted in the early planning stages. 12

Various groups are being formed to channel bibliographic data exchange activities into cooperative efforts. Lacking, however, is the strong, nationally responsible body that can direct, support, guide, and coordinate these efforts.

The NCLIS's responsibilities include these activities.
If NCLIS is to carry out a national coordinating role it should
as soon as possible:

- 1) Establish an NCLIS committee or task force on international activities;
- 2) Identify ongoing international projects important to the aims of NCLIS;
- 3) Identify agencies and organizations in the United States responsible for national participation in these projects;
- 4) Assess the present status of these national and international efforts to determine whether or not they:
 - a) cover all areas of U. S. needs,
 - b) have questionable areas of overlap and duplication,
 - c) recognize the necessity for some measure of standardization and compatibility;
- 5) Determine the need for modified or new efforts;
- 6) Attempt to find a consensus for a common U. S. program for international activities in the library field;
- 7) Provide a central clearinghouse for information concerning international information development.

IV. AGREEMENTS, CONVENTIONS, AND STANDARDS

Although the underlying theme of this paper is the need for free, rapid, and continuing international interchange of information, it should be pointed out that those with political and other special interests may not share the enthusiasm of librarians for unrestricted flow of knowledge. Recent decisions at Unesco show how international cultural efforts can be aborted by political maneuvering. Emile Delavenay in his publication, "for books," discusses the past Unesco efforts to encourage the free flow of information and notes:

The long-term objective being complete free flow of ideas and therefore of the purveyors of ideas--publications, books, films, etc.--it is obvious that obstacles of many different kinds still hinder such free flow. Leaving aside the question of freedom of choice on the part of any individual as to what he reads, restricted, for example, by certain commercial aspects of book circulation, what about customs barriers, import duties, high transport costs and measures for the protection of literary property? Even copyright has been called into question by developing countries as constituting an obstacle to the spread of knowledge. 13

Publishers, librarians, and documentalists have to some degree circumvented the vagaries of political restraints and obstacles through the development of formalized international agreements, conventions, and standards. They provide the means for continuing transnational cooperation and exchange of ideas. Although these agreements are accepted and regularly used by those in the information field, there is little recognition

of the intellectual and diplomatic efforts that lead to their adoption. From long experience in this area Robert Frase writes:

The trend toward increased internationalization of the book-journal-library complex since the end of World War II has been accompanied by parallel changes in U. S. government policy. Since 1954, the United States has for the first time joined an international copyright convention, eliminated the import tariffs on books, music, and a variety of other educational, cultural, and scientific materials, and adopted a preferential schedule of international postal rates on publications and music. No one of these specific changes came about automatically. Each one of them was the result of hard, long, and persistent work by a few civil servants working with book, library, and associated organizations over a period of years. On the other hand, without the fact, the climate and the economic reality of increased internationalization, these changes in government policy could not have occurred.

By and large the present status of public policy on international issues relating to the book-journal-library system is a good one. ...But there are improvements still to be made, as well as the need to maintain vigilance against slipping backward under economic pressures on such matters as adverse trade balances and monetary crises. 14

International Agreements

Official international agreements in the information field are usually handled by the Department of State. The subject experts, however, are outside that department, and the shifting in staff there precludes the development of specialists.

Encouragement of the free flow of information must be a prime concern of NCLIS, and the flow must be international as

well as within the boundaries of the United States. Two major international agreements have been sponsored by Unesco to eliminate some of the barriers to this flow of "intellectual products." These are known as the Florence and the Beirut agreements. The Florence Agreement (the 1950 Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials) has been accepted by 68 countries. The Beirut Agreement (Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Character) made in 1948 has the approval of 28 countries.

Both provide for removing some tariff barriers and taxes on the importation of educational, cultural, and scientific materials. Every segment of the community represented by NCLIS has an interest in these agreements. During the past two years Unesco has sponsored studies and a conference to review these agreements and recommend modifications which would consider both technological changes in the information field and deficiencies in the present agreements.

NCLIS is the only agency which has the responsibility for bringing together all of the specialists concerned with the problems of the international free flow of information.

When a recent call came from Unesco for United States suggestions on the Florence and Beirut agreements, it appeared

that only a few people in this country had the specialized background and knowledge required to assist in developing a United States position.

NCLIS should recognize a responsibility to assume continuing oversight on important activities of this type. The Commission should be able to identify the experts in such fields and should encourage publishing, information, and library groups to develop specialists. These experts would not merely react to suggestions for changes, but would be continuously appraising these programs and suggesting necessary modifications.

The present proposals for change in these two agreements have a direct effect on every segment of the NCLIS constituency. The Preamble to the Florence Agreement indicates that its aim is "the free exchange of ideas and knowledge and, in general, the widest possible dissemination of the diverse forms of self-expression used by civilizations." Surely this coincides with the aims of NCLIS also.

In addition to such general agreements for the broad dissemination of information, there are others that relate to particular fields. Special library agreements include the Brussels Convention which provides for international exchanges of publications, the Pan-American Agreement, and numerous bilateral agreements.

Significant bilateral programs have been carried out by specialists representing such information interests as abstracting, indexing, documentation, science information, technology, and computer aspects of data handling. Sporadic attempts have been made to evaluate these programs. An example is the review made several years ago by the National Science Foundation of participation by United States experts in the work of the Abstracting and Indexing panel of the United States-Japan Committee on Scientific Cooperation.

Although all components of the community represented by NCLIS are affected by these agreements, only a few specialists participate in their development. NCLIS now provides a forum for broader representation in their development and their evaluation.

International Copyright

The problems of international copyright touch every segment of the library-information community. Although our priority attention is directed toward a new United States copyright law, we should be aware of concurrent activity in the international field. The oldest international copyright agreement (or union) dates from 1886 and is known as the Berne Convention. Four revisions have been made since that time.

A second agreement, the Universal Copyright Convention, came into force in 1952 to secure protection for authors in

countries that were not willing to undertake the high level protection of the Berne Convention. Until recently, the field of international copyright was one of cooperation and amity. Problems arose when developing countries became concerned about the effect of these agreements on their countries. They felt that concessions in copyright should be made to assist them in their educational and cultural development. An attempt in 1967 to revise the Berne Convention was not successful and revisions were proposed again at Unesco conferences in 1971 in Paris. Both the Berne and Universal Copyright conventions were revised.

This is a highly technical area and might be considered as outside the scope of NCLIS. Yet it directly affects many sectors of the NCLIS community and requires the attention and interest of the Commission.

It is recommended that the Commission keep itself and its constituents informed about current developments and problems. The new proposals are both technical and complex. NCLIS can provide a needed service to producers and users of information by serving as a national center for analysis, evaluation, and development of international copyright agreements. It should also stimulate greater interest in and understanding of this broad based international system.

International Standards

In relatively simple and unsophisticated times, significant cooperative work could be carried out through personal and informal arrangements. Such arrangements are too fragile, however, to be used to carry out wide-scale, technical, complicated work. Such work demands formalized standards, agreements, and procedures. Fortunately, internationally accepted organizations exist to stimulate, guide, and promote them.

Standards

Basic to all library-informational cooperative work is the establishment of common standards. These may vary from a simple arrangement for exchanging publications to the development of a form for the structure of a bibliographic record on magnetic tape. United States specialists working with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are preparing, refining, and reviewing proposals for submission to the International Standards Organization (ISO), which is responsible for developing and promulgating standards. ISO is made up of national members and conducts its work through special committees, subcommittees, and working groups. Of particular interest to NCLIS is ISO Technical Committee 46 (TC46) which covers documentation, libraries, and related fields.

The United States member of ISO is the American National

Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI), a nongovernment agency supported by private funding. ANSI includes several committees of special interest to NCLIS. These are:

Z39, which covers the ISO committees TC46 (documentation) and TC37 (terminology),

PH5, which covers TC46 (documentary reproduction),

TC42, (photography),

X3, (computers and information processing),

Z85, (library supplies and equipment).

Significant work is now being carried out in the development of standards for library and information work. An example of the standardization process is the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) record developed by the Library of Congress. It was developed by the Library of Congress, reviewed by United States experts, submitted to ISO, and has been issued as a standard tape record format suggested for international use. It has acquired an official number - ISO-2709 - and the name SUPERMARC.

I. Serials

Other important standards in the bibliographic field, serials for example, have been or are being processed for international use. Serials are the first publications to be covered by an operating international bibliographic system. Publications classed as serials (journals, periodicals,

magazines) exist in a milieu that is constantly changing, elusive and irregular. Librarians, dealers, abstractors, indexers and users all find it difficult to work with these publications. It is understandable, therefore, that scientists, librarians, and information specialists strongly supported the establishment of a worldwide center and system for handling such publications.

A. International Serials Data System (ISDS)

The UNISIST unit of Unesco stimulated the establishment of the International Serials Data System (ISDS) with its central office in Paris at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The objectives of the ISDS system are: (a) to develop and maintain an international register of serial publications containing all the necessary information for the identification of the serials; (b) to define and promote the use of a standard code (ISSN) for the unique identification of each serial; (c) to facilitate retrieval of scientific and technical information in serials; (d) to make this information currently available to all countries, organizations or individual users; (e) to establish a network of communications between libraries, secondary-information services, publishers of serial literature and international organizations; (f) to promote international standards for bibliographic description, communication formats, and information exchange in the area of serial publications. 15

Each country has been asked to establish a national center to assist in the numbering and registration of serials that will serve as a part of the total world serials system. The first to set up and operate such a center was the United States. This is called the National Serials Data Project (NSDP) and is located at the Library of Congress.

B. International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

Each serial is given a unique code number, the international Standard Serial Number (ISSN). The number is related to what is termed a "Key title" which is generally the title exactly as it appears on the serial. Initiation of the ISSN came from the U. S. Z39 Committee, referred to earlier.

C. International Standard Bibliographic Description (Serials) ISBD(S)

In addition to its identification by a number, a serial must be described by its title, publisher, and similar information important to users. A proposed format for an internationally standard procedure is known as International Standard Bibliographic Description (Serials) or ISBD (S). The standard establishes a fixed format for listing bibliographic information. The rules are based on ISO2709, Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR) and ISDS Conventions.

D. Conversion of Serials Project (CONSER)

Libraries, information centers, and individual users need to know which libraries hold which titles, and they need to know the extent of a library's holdings. Since the International Serials Data System concentrates on current and new serials, some agency must attempt to register and record information on older serials. CONSER (Conversion of Serials Project), now based at the Council on Library Resources, is managing the development of a North American machine-readable data base of serials. A

committee of technical experts from Canada and the United States is working out procedures for the consolidation of some major United States and Canadian serials files into a common machine-readable file which, it is hoped, will serve as the foundation for an international serials data bank.

II. Monographs and Other Communication Formats

National programs for standardizing rules for machine-readable bibliographic data preceded international projects. As a result strenuous efforts have been made to accommodate various national activities and interests with the urgent need for international standards. Individuals, libraries, and national organizations have with reluctance begun to give up traditional practices and personal preferences as sacrifices to international codes. Some of the standards mentioned below are still controversial, and the Commission should begin to serve as an agent to assist in resolving disagreements between various information-library groups.

A. International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

One might assume that establishing an international system which would provide a unique and distinctive number to identify each new publication would be a relatively simple procedure. Several years ago publishers established the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) which, it was hoped, would serve as a common identification unit for producers and users of information. The numbering system differs from that used

for serials (ISSN) in that the book number (ISBN) codes the publisher, country and similar items, whereas the ISSN is a simple numbering system.

Unfortunately, the enthusiasm of publishers for the ISBN is not shared by librarians who have had reservations concerning its usefulness in library procedures. Librarians in Denmark have indicated that they will not use ISBN, and library usage varies greatly from country to country.

A recent article in the Unesco Bulletin for Libraries highlights the need for consideration of this problem by NCLIS:

However numerous and beneficial the possibilities of ISBN use in libraries may be, ...international co-operation is of vital importance for the successful implementation of ISBN. The ISBN is only useful for individual library operations when all countries number their national book production with ISBN. With electronic data processing especially the exchange of data with ISBN as an internationally unique identification mark can be carried out, as the example of the MARC tapes shows; besides the margins of the nationally and regionally differing cataloging rules can be overcome and - for example in the form of ISBN registers - union catalogues can be prepared independent of them. In addition, a considerable degree of rationalization can be achieved in inter-library lending.

...the progress made so far shows how much still needs to be done. The problems of ISBN application are internationally the same and, therefore, should be solved by international co-operation. 16

B. Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR).

C. International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD)

is the generic term for a variety of descriptions being developed similar to ISBD(S) mentioned above. It provides for listing in a fixed order each element of a bibliographic description.

D. International Standard Bibliographic Description (Monographs)

(ISBD(M)) is the standard for monographs.

E. International Standard Bibliographic Description (Maps)

(ISBD(MAPS)) is now being developed by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

The subject of standards for describing bibliographic information is of fundamental importance to those working on international information systems. The field is highly technical and complex even when only concerned with one country. Its complexities are compounded when work begins on international systems and procedures. Significant binational and international projects are well under way, and they can be improved and expedited by support and interest on the part of NCLIS.

In this highly selective summary of major international developments in agreements, copyright and standards, it has not been possible to cover any of the topics in detail. It is expected that members or committees of NCLIS will be assigned responsibility for these subjects. They should also be concerned with such related activities as those carried out by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPO).

V. POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES:
SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC

A formal commitment to assume planning responsibilities in the international aspects of information and the initiation of a broad coordination role on the part of NCLIS could lead to significant cultural and economic advantages. Even with the present condition of independent and uncorrelated activity in international programs, advantages can be identified, and they point up the fields where notable results could be obtained through the stimulation of NCLIS.

1) Human Resources

The theoretical and practical planning and operation of international cooperative projects require a special and often sophisticated background of education, experience, and outlook. Too few people with these qualifications are available, and often they are engaged in efforts that duplicate the work of others. In addition, they are often overburdened with many international responsibilities. Better use must be made nationally and internationally of these experts. Consideration should be given to encouraging and developing newcomers in this area.

2) Conservation of Energy

International activities such as those mentioned in this report are being carried out by individuals, professional organizations, nongovernment associations, government departments, educational institutions and agencies, research groups, private

corporations and foundations. Each, in a measure, has a special motive or interest. The total deployment of manpower in this whole area is large enough to require some measure of public assessment. NCLIS is the only national body that can be responsible for carrying out an assessment of the types and numbers of workers in the international library-information area. The Commission, hopefully, could issue guidelines and provide for some measure of cooperation.

3) Research and Development

Most of the technologically advanced countries today are supporting research and development in the use of computers, reprography, and other technology for various phases of work in the library, information, publishing, and similar fields that are of concern to NCLIS. Improved exchange of information on projects, cooperative-shared research and development, and international planning of work would show savings and expedite progress.

4) Sharing of Resources

Recent experience at the Library of Congress in the shared program for foreign acquisitions and cataloging indicates a potential for savings. There is a need for careful analysis by qualified experts. International exchanges of publications often provide access to materials that would otherwise be unavailable. For over a century United States libraries have benefitted from the work of our national libraries in building up resources of publications from abroad. Many land-grant libraries have also built up notable foreign collections through the cooperation of state experiment stations and agricultural research offices in

exchanging their publications abroad. Sporadic studies have shown there is a need for continuous evaluation, planning and coordination to make certain that United States users and libraries fully benefit from these costly programs.

Leaders in the indexing, bibliographic and translation fields have engaged in many international cooperative programs. The present trend is to expand these efforts and thus extend both the service and fiscal benefits that are now known to be attainable.

5) Preservation

A field of increasing importance is the one covering the preservation of books, journals, films - all the media for recording man's history and knowledge. On a worldwide basis, the experts are few, and the laboratories are limited. With many records already deteriorating beyond recall, there is an urgent need to stimulate and expand international cooperative work. Both our government and private resources are limited. Their influence can be expanded through jointly coordinated research and development.

6) Aid to Developing Countries

The federal government, foundations, professional groups, industrial organizations and private individuals have supported United States' efforts to assist developing countries in library, publishing and other information services. Some activities have been poorly planned; others inefficiently managed, and many with a common program have been overlapping or duplicative. A major

analysis, evaluation and development of objectives by NCLIS could provide notable savings in our efforts to help others. More important, there might be an improvement in the quality and appropriateness of such aid.

VI. BARRIERS AND PROBLEMS

NCLIS has already identified the special problems involved in planning a national network which will provide open and rapid access to information. The difficulties increase when international activities are considered and when national plans are shaped to fit into an international scheme or schemes.

Although many of the problems in international planning coincide with those in the national field, there are others unique to international activities. The National Program - 2nd Draft (pages 48-52) identifies nine major barriers to cooperative action. All, in a measure, relate to both national and international areas, but the following four have significant impact on international efforts:

1. Diversity of the component parts of the information community.
2. Funding.
3. Jurisdictional problems.
4. Lack of guidelines.

There are additional problems which relate more specifically to international affairs and international cooperation.

These include:

1) Alphabets and Languages

Problems in acquiring and cataloging information in varied languages are relatively easy to solve for most libraries and information centers. Difficulties increase when

there is a need for abstracting, indexing, and special bibliographic services. Highly complex are the problems inherent in the computer storage and processing of information or data from a variety of languages. National problems must be resolved before we can reach the stage where English language and Japanese language data can be made compatible on a common magnetic tape system.

2) Cultural Differences and Levels of Development

Activities of highest priority to a developing country may be of marginal interest to a country with sophisticated information services. However, if all countries are to be included in universal methods, advanced countries must show patience and understanding in working with developing nations.

Those working in the international area must also recognize that national idiosyncrasies or mores will require in the beginning modifications in operations and rules in order to reach eventually the common goals of standardized, integrated procedures.

3) Technological Competence

Modifications in some advanced computer based programs may be required to accommodate the competence of those using manual or unsophisticated computer programs. There are also many levels of use of audio-visual, microform, and other non-book information media.

4) National Plans and Centers

Until recently national planning in the library-information area has focused on and centered about local needs, interests, and concerns. It is only recently that international implications have been included as part of the national planning process. Fifty or more countries have developed national library-information plans in the past decade. Modifications and extensions will be needed to enable the community to establish even an elementary worldwide information system.

5) Government Organization

The problem here is identifying the differences in governmental or social conditions that may affect cooperative action in the information area. Aspects to consider are: free flow of information, changes in governmental structure and officials, divided responsibility, distinctions between the private and public sectors, and priorities. Planners are confronted by the changing patterns in each country as well as by the differences in concept from country to country. Members of NCLIS should develop an understanding and feeling for the nuances of international cooperation.

International organizations such as the International Federation for Documentation and the International Federation of Library Associations are concerned about all of these difficulties and provide forums for discussion and proposals for action.

Members of NCLIS have been and are active and constructive participants as members of these organizations, but the Commission must determine its own role in meeting and contributing to the solving of these problems.

VII. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Each segment of the information community included in the scope of NCLIS has some ongoing international project or is directly affected by international agreements or projects. Few of the national professional groups representing these interests have well planned, continuing, adequately supported subgroups or offices prepared to cope with international problems or projects in their own fields. Most depend upon committees or knowledgeable individuals to represent their professional interests on an ad hoc basis.

Libraries might serve as a case in point. Several years ago an informal review identified over fifty offices, committees, and subcommittees concerned with various aspects of international library activities. There were groups in library associations, foundations, area studies associations, archives, learned societies, government agencies, and libraries. An inventory by the American Library Association at about the same time showed that nearly every type of library (public, academic, special, school) was carrying on some type of international activity.

Unfortunately, each of these groups works independently, since there is no center nor organization serving as a clearing-house for all of these efforts.

Surveys, proposed programs, blueprints, pilot projects, and training courses have been carried out by United States library experts, hopefully in the interests of worldwide library development. Lacking, however, is any provision for continuing evaluation of these efforts. Library projects share the general criticism that is directed toward most United States international assistance efforts. They suffer from inadequate planning, the pressures for urgent activity and haphazard evaluation.

NCLIS is probably the only federal body authorized to serve as a coordinating body and a clearinghouse. The scope and complexity of international activities outlined in this paper represent responsibilities that must be shared by many organizations and groups. However, each of these groups has limited resources and specialized objectives. NCLIS must provide the oversight, guidance, and coordination that will ensure the joining together of their efforts for the national benefit.

Before suggesting the role of NCLIS, it is important that the Commission give assurance that it will not take away from any organization or group the activities, programs, and responsibilities that belong to that group. Many individuals and organizations in the United States have made lasting contributions to international cooperation. Often they have worked with limited guidance, inadequate support, and negligible appreciation.

It should be further recognized that various government and nongovernment groups have been assigned or have taken the responsibility for the activities outlined in this report. They are the experts and they should continue to carry out their international responsibilities. NCLIS may assume coordinating and review functions, but it should not attempt to take over ongoing work from any group that is qualified and willing to continue its efforts.

Recommendations for NCLIS Action in the International Field

I. The Role of NCLIS

A. The primary role of NCLIS should be to provide for continuing systematic coordination of United States interests, and activities in the library-information science international field. To carry this out the Commission will provide a center for bringing together national and international goals, objectives, relationships, methods, agreements, standards, and support. In its first stages of such activity, NCLIS should probably maintain a low profile, emphasizing its potential for assisting ongoing work and its availability as a coordinating body.

B. A corollary role is establishment of a center for short-range and long-term planning. Here it should be emphasized that NCLIS should not become involved in operational activities. Up until the past few years, activities in international projects have taken precedence over planning.

C. The Commission should serve in a liaison capacity, bringing together the multiplicity of United States' interests in international cooperation. The newly organized Committee on International Scientific and Technical Information Programs (CISTIP) brings together some of the organizations primarily responsible for international cooperation in scientific and technological information. Equally needed is a unit which will bring together all groups with international information interests.

D. A systematic program should be set up for evaluating United States international activities and projects. There has been an assumption by some that any international work per se is justifiable and beneficial. Our three decades of postwar experience have shown that this is a false deduction. International information work deserves rigorous and exhaustive critical judgment and evaluation.

A significant part of the review process must show a concern for users of information. Most analyses of international work focus on the operations themselves. NCLIS should insist on an equal interest in users.

E. The Commission should serve as a clearinghouse for international agreements and international standards. Although government agencies and professional associations may be responsible for handling agreements and standards, NCLIS should make certain that all concerned groups have opportunities to express their

viewpoints. Opportunity should also be provided for evaluation of agreements and standards. NCLIS should also make certain that its constituency is informed about actions in these fields.

F. NCLIS should provide an intelligence center which will provide the information community with advance notice of significant or unusual developments in other countries. An example is the adoption in western Europe of "public lending rights" - a tax on libraries which provides income for authors. Serious consideration is being given to this tax in West Germany and the United Kingdom. A few discussions have been held in this country. NCLIS should be aware of these developments and assess their impact on readers, publishers, librarians, and authors.

G. NCLIS should develop and encourage greater joint participation by national groups in all types of international projects or activities. The demise of the National Book Committee (NBC) deprives the book field of a center for promoting joint interests and projects. NBC had an active role in stimulating cooperative programs for the recent International Book Year. NCLIS should act as a central clearinghouse for similar efforts.

Associated with International Book Year were two Unesco publications: "UNESCO Public Library Manifesto" and "Charter of the Book." A relatively small group of experts from the United States accounted for our input into these documents. NCLIS should have a role in publicizing such efforts and making certain that broad national interests are represented in such documents.

H. Links should be established with groups similar to NCLIS in other countries. Informal contacts should be maintained with various transnational groups concerned with the library-information field, such as the International Federation for Documentation, International Council on Archives, and the International Federation of Library Associations.

I. As an agency of the federal government NCLIS should assist in the development of national policy in relation to international activities. The Commission should provide for review, analysis, guidance, and development in the various fields mentioned in this report. Priority should be given to acquisitions, universal bibliographic control, agreements, standards, free flow of information, and UNISIST.

J. The Commission should when possible support proposals for funding priority international activities.

Additional suggestions for NCLIS responsibilities will be found on pages 14, 15, and 27 of this report.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In 1965 Charles Frankel in a Brookings Institution study of American cultural policy reported that the assumptions for our cultural programs have never been critically and systematically examined. He stressed the need to examine cliches, ad hoc activities, and the like. Although organizations such as USIA, NSF, LC, State Department, and ALA work with international programs, none of them has authority or responsibility for broad coordination and evaluation.

A recent survey shows that more than thirty nations are now working on national programs for libraries and information service. Most of them specifically mention international interests. Studying these plans one feels the eagerness of these countries to establish new links with other countries. The United States has both an opportunity and a necessity to act promptly in assuring the world of our interest in specific fields of international cooperation. NCLIS can indicate the willingness of this country to share in the responsibilities through a formal commitment - a program of action.

Until recently many notable advances in world information and cooperation resulted from the initiative and work of dedicated individuals. The role of associations and organizations appeared to be one of plodding along beaten paths, making inventories, sponsoring discussions, and stressing technical details. Recently,

however, one notes a new "life style" in international information groups. Innovative ideas are emerging, new activities are starting, and for the first time there is a commitment to co-operation.

NCLIS can be not just a participant, but a leader in the move toward the realization of freely flowing information and dynamic sharing of intellectual resources.

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AACR

Anglo-American Cataloging Rules

AGRIS

Agricultural Sciences and Technology International Information System

ANSI

American National Standards Institute

CLR

Council on Library Resources

CONSER

Conversion of Serials Project

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization

FID

International Federation for Documentation

ISCU/AB

International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board

IFIP

International Federation for Information Processing

IFLA

International Federation of Library Associations

INIS

International Nuclear Information System

ISBD

International Standard Bibliographic Description

ISBD (M)

International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographs

ISBD(MAPS)

International Standard Bibliographic Description for Maps

ISBD(S)

International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials

ISBN

International Standard Book Number

ISO

International Organization for Standardization

ISO 2709

International Standard MARC Communications Format

ISSN

International Standard Serial Number

LC

Library of Congress

MARC

Machine Readable Cataloging

MEDLARS

Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System

NAL

National Agricultural Library

NBC

National Book Committee

NCLIS

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

NLM

National Library of Medicine

NPAC

National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging

NSDP

National Serials Data Program

NSF

National Science Foundation

PL 480

Public Law 480

UBC

Universal Bibliographic Control

UN

United Nations

UNDP

United Nations Development Program

UNISIST

A Non-representation Acronym for the Unesco International Cooperative Program in Scientific and Technical Information

UPO

Universal Postal Union

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization

239 COMMITTEE

Committee of the American National Standards Institute on Documentation and Terminology

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS OR INTERESTS

I. Multinational Bodies

A. Intergovernmental

- 1) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco)
 - a) Department of Documentation, Libraries and Archives (DBA)
 - b) UNISIST
- 2) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- 3) Organization of American States (OAS)
- 4) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- 5) World Health Organization (WHO)
- 6) United Nations (UN)
- 7) United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- 8) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

B. Nongovernmental - Professional

- 1) International Federation for Documentation (FID)
- 2) International Council on Archives (ICA)
- 3) International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board (ICSU/AB)
- 4) International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)
- 5) International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

- 6) International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- 7) International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers
- 8) International Federation of Translators
- 9) International PEN
- 10) International Publishers Association
- 11) World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

II. U. S. National Coordinating Committees

- A. Committee on International Scientific and Technical Information Programs (CISTIP)
Established by the National Academy of Sciences to provide continuing review and analysis of the programs, activities, structures and budgets of international organizations concerned with the problems of information transfer. Organizations included in the purview of CISTIP are: FID, ICSU/AB, IFLA, IFIP, WFEO, UNISIST,
- B. Government Advisory Committee on International Book and Library Programs. U. S. Department of State. (GAC)